



Environmental Affairs Board

Meeting Notes

8-26-03 ■ 6:00 p.m.

Committee Room
Second Floor, City Hall

Members Present: Will Anderson, Kathi Beratan, Ahrash Bissell, Ray Eurquhart, Darryl Roberts, and Dock Terrell
Members Absent: Marian Johnson-Thompson (E), Judy Kincaid (E), and Samantha Miller
Staff Present: Keith Luck, Nancy Newell, Terry Rolan, William Sun, Doug Vaughn, and Glen Whisler
Guests Present: Jeff Hunter, Steve Levitas, and Randall Jarrell

Call to Order

The meeting was convened without a quorum at 6:20 pm. A quorum was achieved at 6:40 pm.

Old Business

- **Minute.** Absent a quorum, the Board could not act on minutes from its July meeting; approval of minutes would be placed on the agenda for September.
- **Concrete Batch Plan.** Kathy Beratan reported that she commented on the concreted batch plant proposed for Denfield Ave. and found only relatively minor concerns regarding environmental threats from the plant. She attended the Development Review Board, where the proposed site plan for the plant was not approved because of no access to a freeway, major or minor thoroughfare on Denfield Ave. She was impressed with the focus of the meeting and the role of Frank Duke, Planning Director, in providing all an opportunity to speak, while keeping the discussion on the appropriate topics.
- **Environmental Summit.** Ms. Beratan reported that she would soon be able to assign tasks related to the proposed Environmental Summit to a student with an assistanceship from the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment. She is envisioning a one day meeting held within one year, facilitated by a professional meeting facilitator, and including leaders from major environmental groups in Durham.
- **Comprehensive Plan.** In Joe Jackson's absence, Keith Luck reported that the Durham Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee is continuing to meet to review draft elements (or chapters) of the Plan and tiers from the future land use map.

New Business

- **Community Wastewater Treatment System, Colvard Farms.** Mr. Luck provided an overview of the Durham Urban Growth Area boundary, watershed protection and Durham's policy related to community wastewater treatment systems. Terry Rolan mentioned that the City has a 10 Million Gallon Per Day water allocation from the Jordan Reservoir, so issues related to water quality and development near the shoreline are especially important to the City.

Mr. Jeff Hunter presented the Colvard Farms project, outlining the location and design of the subdivision and the innovative community wastewater treatment systems the development uses. Mr. Hunter also introduced Steven Levitas, Kilpatric Stockton LLP, and Randall Jarrell, operator of the Colvard Farms sewer treatment plant. The wastewater treatment system is designed to apply all of the effluent to land within the development with no discharge to streams. Mr Hunter indicated that the plant has been approved for 100,000 gallons per day, but currently is built to about 50,000 gallons per day; however, the plant currently provides service to only 10 houses. The plant includes a basin to provide storage of 180-days of effluent before it needs to spray. Deed covenants commit property owners to management of the system. Ms. Beratan reminded the Board that the development uses conservation-by-design principles that Durham ought to be encouraging. Board members had several questions for Mr. Hunter about the details of the plant and its operation. Mr. Levitas indicated that this is a state-of-the-art system and that the NC DENR is using this type of plant as its new desired standard for community wastewater treatment systems.

Ahrash Bissell indicated that he thought this developer was operating a system that should be efficient and safe, but that the public policy issue was how Durham could allow these systems to be approved anywhere in watershed protection areas and feel comfortable that the environment would be protected. After much discussion, Ms. Beratan indicated that the EAB probably could not come to a decision now, but asked members and Mr. Hunter to think of issues to be addressed if Durham were to consider approving these systems and to forward those by email to her. This topic would be discussed at the EAB's next meeting on September 23rd.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Bissell, seconded by Mr. Terrell and approved on voice vote to adjourn at 7:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith M. Luck, AICP
Planning Supervisor